

The Observer

opinion news features sports stuff

News Briefs

Martin Luther King, Jr. March

The Minority Student Union cooperatively sponsored a march to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 19. Participating in the march were both individuals of Saint Joseph's College and the surrounding community.

At the courthouse, the destination of the march, speakers addressed the issue of the racism that still exists today.

Speakers included Rensselaer Mayor Susan Smith; Constantine Regali, Quinell Gutwein, and David Shabazz of Saint Joseph's College.

Happenings

Parent's Midwinter Social

The Parent's Midwinter Social will be Saturday and Sunday January 31st and February 1st. Many activities are planned for the weekend.

Columbian Players

"An Evening with the Columbian Players" can be seen in the Science building auditorium at the following times:

Friday at 8:00 pm
Saturday at 8:00 pm
Sunday at 2:00 pm

Parent's Weekend Packed With Activities

by Peggy McLeish

The Office of Parent and Alumni Relations has put much effort to create a very enjoyable weekend for the annual Parent's Midwinter Social this year. The activities will take place the weekend of January 31 and February 1. Director of Parent and Alumni Relations, Maureen Egan, has revived old traditions and created new ones to make this weekend special and active for both parents and students.

According to Egan, during the 1980's the College held a Community Day to bring the area businesses onto campus for the students. That is what has been done again this year in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce. Saturday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

there will be approximately thirty-five businesses from the community bringing in goods and showing their services to the parents and students. The businesses range from a massage therapist who will be showing techniques to the owner of a local gift shop who will be sharing ideas on creating stationary. Others include a florist explaining how to properly care for your fresh flowers to a display of airbrush art creation. There will be free samples as well as drawings for giveaways from the businesses.

As well as the businesses and their goods and services, students and parents can enjoy caricature and balloon artists, sponsored by the Student Union Board. There will be facepainting done by the

Student Volunteer Corps for children.

Other activities for the weekend include the men's and women's basketball games that will be held Saturday against the University of Wisconsin Parkside. Admission for both games will be free of charge for all as part of the Parent's weekend festivities.

The dinner meal in Halleck cafeteria on Saturday night has been specially planned for the parents and families as well. Steak and shrimp will be served along with a special atmosphere. After dinner a coffeehouse will be held in the Halleck south lounge. Flavored coffees will be available and a guest speaker, Ginny Kowalski, will talk about parenting and having children at college.

"An Evening With the Columbian Players" Performance This Weekend

by Ashley Pierce

Have you been looking for some fun and entertainment? The Columbian Players of Saint Joseph's College have just what you have been searching for.

The annual, "An Evening With the Columbian Players" variety show will take place in the college theater on Friday, January 30 and Saturday, January 31 at 8:00 pm. There will also be a special matinee performance on Sunday, February 1 at 2:00 pm. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students, and the Saint Joseph's College community is admitted free of charge.

The show, which will be



hosted by Junior Sara Reasoner, will feature three original student written and directed plays. "We felt we should have as much Saint Joseph's involvement as we could," commented Columbian Players President, Senior Matt Owens. The plays were written last year for Professor Robert Garrity's Playwriting class.

The plays selected include "Just Some Advice" written by Senior DeAnn

Hazzard and directed by Junior Kathy Jarowicz, "Tripping Over Nothing" written by Sophomore Mike Nichols and directed by Owens, and "A Matter of Time" written by Senior Jeremy White and directed by Senior Andy Hicks. The directors and writers are very enthusiastic about the show. Hazzard stated, "I'm excited that it was chosen, but I'm also extremely nervous. I hope people enjoy it."

In addition to the one acts, there will be an Improv show, moderated by Junior Chris Greski. Musical interludes will be featured between each of the one-acts and the improv.

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"What are you going to be when you grow up?"

by DeAnn Hazzard

The first time you probably heard this was at the age of five...some adult decided to bond with you...you put down your G.I. Joe army man or your Barbie Doll, looked up and seriously may have said something like, "I want to be a doctor, or a policeman, or a grape." Regardless of your response, that adult pretty much just smiled and nodded. It didn't really matter, you had your whole life in front of you, and you saw no problem with being a grape for the rest of your life. Things were simple.

Now your G.I. Joe armyman or Barbie Doll have been replaced by school, sports, a completely intense social life that requires countless hours on the phone...namely you are a teenager. Yet, despite your transformation to adolescence that nagging question still pops up, except now it's being asked by your parents, your teachers, and your school counselors. You are being faced with standardized tests that may decide

your acceptance into college, when all you really want to do is hang with your friends and watch the game.

So the answers just fly out of your mouth, a doctor, lawyer, singer, actor, and of course, a grape, because let's be honest you aren't really sure. Yet at least now you know that you have to say something rational or your parents are going to faint. The answers seem to be for their benefit. Yet, things still seem to be simple.

Now, the tests are done and you're finally in a dorm room with a stack of books, a ton of homework, and the overwhelming desire to just take a nap. And you're wondering how you ever handled school from 8 in the morning to 3 in the afternoon, when you can't even handle 2 classes a day without zoning out.

So you've struggled through class and quite a few intense weekends, and now you have no choice but to answer that question. "What are you going to be when you grow up?"

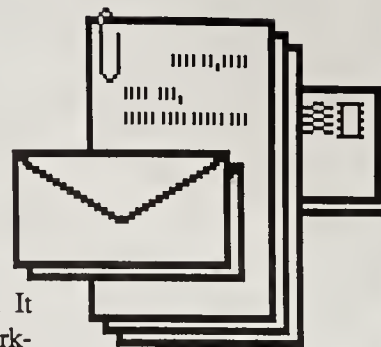
You may have a better idea or at least a sense of direction

now, but you can't help but wonder where the time went.

Well, that is how I feel. It seems that I have been working my entire life to prepare for my future, and I have done everything according to plan, or anyway, some kind of plan, and yet I still don't know what I want to be when I grow up.

Now on the verge of compiling my life onto one piece of paper accompanied by a structured letter that explains who I am to a complete stranger who may or may not hire me, I can't help but feel completely out of control. I am reading books on how to write a winning resume and cover letters that will get me in the door and interview tips that are sure to answer all those tough questions while all I want to say is just "hire me, I can do the job, I need this job, and well, just hire me!"

It's not even the fear of not getting a job, because in the depths of my heart I know that eventually I will get one, it is the fear of getting a job that I will hate. This fear is



in part due to all of the horror stories that I have been so lucky to hear about from recent alumni. For the handful who are actually doing what they want, or are happy doing, there is, oh, about a ton not happy with what they are doing. And, unfortunately this is starting to make me panic.

But there is no turning back...time marches on...and I can either march on or get trampled. So, *what am I going to be when I grow up?* Well, to my dismay, I can't give you a title yet, but I still consider my whole life to still be in front of me. This means I can stay a kid for a little while longer. The resumes will be sent out and the interviews will be had and the rejection letters will be collected and a job will eventually be accepted. But to be honest, I think I still will be wishing for those intense weekends, those games, and of course the beauty of just being a grape. Things should be simple.

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CHEERS & JEERS

*Cheers to the movies, *Titanic* and *Good Will Hunting*

*Cheers to snow

*Cheers to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day activities

*Cheers to Senior Bowling Night

*Cheers to Super Bowl parties

*Cheers to long-distance phone calls

*Cheers to the Mid-Winter Social

*Jeers to Saint Joe being frozen over

*Jeers to shin splints

*Jeers to procrastination

*Jeers to lack of creativity

*Jeers to the French Vanilla Cappuccino being out of order.

*Jeers to frying bugs

Letters to the Editor:
Letters must be between 350-500 words. They must be signed and include a telephone number. If the author of the letter does not want his/her name used, include a pseudonym to be printed. The Editorial Board can elect not to print a letter that conflicts with or violates the newspaper Editorial Policy or College Doctrine. Editors reserve the right to edit letters for length. Letters can be e-mailed to DeAnn Hazzard or dropped off in our mailbox in the Core Building.

Forensics Council News

by Amy Chester

What is the Forensics Council? Glad you asked. Forensics Council consists of a speech, debate and an on-campus programs division which is open to all undergraduates regardless of their prior experience.

Forensics Council has set many goals for their members to abide by. They are to promote communication skills between members and the surrounding community as well as critical thinking skills, argumentation and persuasion skills, and to increase the knowledge of both members and the Saint Joseph's College Community through the different areas they explore.

Council members compete in speaking, interpretation, and criticism. There are nineteen members on the team, all from different majors with a majority of them being Freshmen and Sophomores.

On March 17 in the Courtney Auditorium of the Core building, the Forensics team will host a Japanese team which is currently on tour. According to Coach Maureen Minielli the team is really excited to have the Japanese team here because Saint Joseph's has never sponsored an international team prior to this. The tour involves many stops along the way and the Forensics team is excited that they could fit Saint Joseph's into their already tight scheduled tour.

The Saint Joseph's College Forensics team's upcoming competitions will take place at Asbury College in Lexington, Kentucky; Indiana Uni-

versity; Purdue University; and Murray State in Kentucky. The state tournament will be held at Indiana University near the end of February. The national competition will be held at Western Illinois. So far ten members have qualified for this national competition. The team has qualified every year, but this is the first year that they will be attending the competition.

Recent competitions have resulted with a fourth place at Owensboro Community College and a third place overall out of twelve schools at Transylvania. Eight team members went and seven of those advanced to finals in at least one event. Individual placings included in Impromptu, Nikki Harris first and Caryn Frangella third. Heather Hagan placed fifth in the Informative category. Greg Lange finished sixth in Extemporaneous. Andrea Batista and Blair VanVelse placed sixth in the Duo. In the DI, Blair VanVelse placed fourth and Matt Allen placed sixth. Caryn Frangella finished sixth in the Prose. Blair VanVelse also finished sixth in Impromptu storytelling. Speakers who compete in more than five events can compete in the Pentathlon. Blair VanVelse finished fourth and Caryn Frangella finished sixth in this event.

When asked about his involvement on the Forensics team, Blair VanVelse replied, "Being on the Forensics team has allowed us to go many different places and compete against numerous colleges and universities from across the nation. This is an experience that I could not have gotten from any other source. It will help me in all my future endeavors."

O'Conner to Leave Counseling Services

by Julia Garcia

Suzanne O'Conner, student counselor, has resigned from her position in the Counseling Services in order to take a new position at the University of Southern California School of Business in Los Angeles. She will be working with the business scholars honors program.

O'Conner, who is a native of New York, came to live in Lafayette in order to take the position at Saint Joseph's this past summer. Among her many duties, O'Conner worked closely with the freshman seminar programs and orientation. "We redid the entire Fresh-

man Seminar curriculum...I saw it expand into a program with more topics," stated O'Conner. O'Conner was also instrumental in helping the Counseling Center triple in size, making it capable of assisting more students.

"Saint Joseph's was my first professional job...it made me sure that working directly with students is what I want," stated O'Conner. O'Conner, who has worked with students involved in SUB, Freshman Seminar, and Kairos, states that she will miss them the most.

ACTIVITIES ABOUND AT THE CAREER CENTER

The Career Center held Career Awareness week the week of January 26th through the 30th. Activities were planned for each day at both noon and in the evening. On the evening of Thursday January 29th at 7:00 pm there will be a Saint Joseph's Alumnus speaking on career decisions and job searching strategies. The speaker will be in the Shen Auditorium of the Core building. On Friday January 30th the center will be conducting

mock interviews. Students should call to sign up for a time slot.

The CareerFest 1998 is scheduled for February 25th. To register, seniors are required to submit a resume to the Career Center by February 6th. Students are encouraged to visit the center for a listing of participating employers.

Career discussion panels will be held with professionals of various fields from 1:00 to 2:00 pm during the CareerFest. From 2:00 to 5:00 will be the open recruit-

ing in the Core building.

Other activities in the career center include the visit by a recruiter from State Farm Insurance Companies on campus. She will be conducting interviews on February 2nd between nine and five. Call extension 6116 for an appointment.

Walk In Hours:

Monday 3:30 - 4:30

Tuesday 9:00 - 10:00

Wednesday 12:00 - 1:00

Open Late Mondays

4:30 - 7:00

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS PLANNED

by Peggy McLeish

The Minority Student Union and the Office of Multicultural Affairs are working together to help Saint Joseph's College celebrate Black History Month in February. Saint Joseph's students Marty Corley and Varon Cantrell have coordinated the month-long celebration. Informative and entertaining activities are scheduled for the duration of the month.

All members of the Saint Joseph's community are encouraged and welcome to participate in the celebration of Black History Month. Coordinator Marty Corley commented, "Black history is American history. It deals with everyone." The Black History month is to make everyone aware of just that.

The movie "Skin Deep" will be shown at 7:00 pm in the Shen auditorium of the Core building on February 3 to begin Black History Month here on campus. The movie deals with issues of racism on college campuses.

On February 6, "Sisters of Thunder" will perform in the Halleck Center Ballroom at 7:00 pm. The performance will be a skit on African-American music from the past to the present.

On February 9 there will be a bus traveling to Butler University in Indianapolis to see Mari Evans. Ms. Evans is an African-American poet from Indianapolis. The bus will be leaving at 5:00 pm from Halleck Center.

Paul Bayless of Indianapolis will speak on issues regarding Affirmative Action at 7:00 pm on February 19 in the Courtney auditorium of the Core building.

Primeridian, a hip-hop group from the University of Illinois will perform in the Halleck Center Ballroom on February 20 at 8:00 pm. The final event planned for the month will be the movie "Eyes on the Prize" which will be shown on the Puma channel from February 22 through the 27.

Keeping the Dream Alive: One Student's Reflections on the Martin Luther King Day Events

by Jenny Palecek

To many people on this campus, January 19th was just an ordinary Monday. It was a cold and somewhat gloomy day. Students were trodding off to class unaware of the celebration taking place across the country and, more importantly, on the SJC campus.

This past Monday marked the birthday of a great man, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Activities for this holiday had been planned for some time.

I am sure that many people do not see any reason to celebrate King's birthday. They feel that it is just a holiday for African Americans to celebrate. I believe that

King's birthday is a day that we all should celebrate. Not only did King try to abolish segregation, he tried to unite all races and religions together. He gave us a great message in the 1960's, one that remains important today.

I had decided days before that I would go on the march. The plan was to march from the chapel to the courthouse in town. I was excited that Saint Joseph's College was taking action and doing something to show their support for King's message, especially since the march had to be cancelled last year.

I was surprised at the turnout at the march. Students from several Rensselaer schools had come to partici-

pate, as well as students from a high school in Michigan City.

My disappointment was in the lack of participation in the SJC community. There were students and faculty there, but not nearly as many as I had hoped. I had heard too many times that day, "It's too cold outside" or "I have class." It seemed to me that most professors would be happy to let their students out of class for such an important event. You cannot learn everything in the classroom. You need to experience some things.

Two young boys led the march holding a banner with a picture of King on it. We all marched together with a police escort. Some people even came out of their shops to show their support.

When we arrived at the courthouse, we listened to several speeches and we sang "We Shall Overcome." These speeches honored King and told us that we need to take some action to keep the dream alive.

The theme of the panel discussion was "Is the Dream a Reality?" The panel consisted of three Saint Joe professors as well as two guest speakers. Each speaker gave a brief presentation and then there was a discussion among all those attending.

I was impressed with all of the speakers and those who voiced their ideas during the discussion. The question at hand is a hard one to answer. To some extent, the dream is a reality. We have made major strides in ending segregation, but we have so far to go.

On the surface, it seems that segregation does not exist. We of all races and religions can use the same bathrooms, sit together on the bus, and eat at the same restaurants. When you look really closely, though, it is plain to see that segregation does

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photo by Cindy Stanko

View from the Looney Bin

New Beginnings

by Heidi Jugovic

New Year's Day has come and gone, but a sticky residue has been deposited in its wake. For some, the residue washes easily off their hands. Others wander around with a looney expression on their faces rubbing their hands and mumbling, "Out, out, damn spot!"

What is this film of goo which momentarily covers our lives once we switch our calendars from 1997 to 1998? It is an evil as old as celery...New Year's Resolutions.

What is it about a date on a calendar that compels us to reexamine our lives and throw them into worse turmoil than they were before? What is it about a drunken holiday that makes us turn the harsh eye of criticism inward to list our deficiencies in masochistic glee?

Why on earth would anyone want to sit down and make list of everything that was wrong with them and everything they failed to do so far?

I hear the voices in my head answering: "We must periodically examine where we have been in order to better direct where our lives will head in the future. A little self criticism is healthy if it helps us to become better people. We all have room for improvement, and we all need goals to drive our lives."

I consider this and then tell

the voices to shut up and go back to manufacturing nightmares for the coming week. After all, the idea seems sound, but, like so many other good intentions, how far do New Year's Resolutions go in reality?

I don't know about the rest of the loonies, but for me, most of my resolutions have to do with faults I've had since I was 8 and will probably have until I'm 80.

Some of my resolutions have depended on forces out of my control...like if those sadistic voices will shut up for five minutes.

Some of my goals seem attainable, but somehow calling them New Year's Resolutions guarantees that I will never get them done.

With all this in mind, I've re-evaluated my whole take on resolutions. If I really want to get something done, I'll probably do better to just write it in my planner and forget calling it a resolution.

And forget making goals once a year...my life is screwy enough to warrant re-evaluating it more frequently than that.

But most importantly, I'm going to skip the list of faults and focus on a list of strengths. I know my faults in detail without the list. A great thing about New Year's is that I get a new beginning, and I'm going to take it for all it's worth. Leave the regrets to the past year and indulge in a little self-forgiveness. Now there's a resolution to stick by.

Missing: One Groundhog. Answers to the name of Chip. Has three legs and a prosthetic tail. Will pay cash reward for safe return. Please call extension 8118 if you have any information about Chip.

For Sale: Magic beans. Guaranteed to grow giant beanstalk. Will trade for cow. Also selling one golden harp and a hen that lays golden eggs. Call extension 8263 and ask for Jack.

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Measure is now accepting submissions for the 1998 issue. Short stories, poetry, one-act plays, and cover designs will be considered for publication. Give submissions to Rachel Barlage or Heather Moser or put them in Dr. Garrity's box in the Core building. No anonymous submissions, please!

Meet You at Arni's!

by Lisa Phillips

Arni's, the new restaurant next to Fashion Bug, is reminiscent of Pizza King, with lower prices, and a bit more variety. The restaurant opened on January 6th and is enjoying a steady flow of customers, says owner Bob Hanna.

The line wasn't terribly long when I went, and although the restaurant is very small, the service is prompt and efficient. The employees were helpful and friendly. I was surprised to find that a large pizza really is quite large (I had trouble fitting the leftovers in my refrigerator).

Some things I saw on the menu that intrigued me, but I haven't gotten a chance to try are: Italian Beef BBQ, Creamy New York Style Cheese Cake, Reese's Peanut Butter Pie, and Texas Chili and Beans. Beware, though, Arni's burgers are 100% pure ground beef (wouldn't want to shock your system with REAL meat).

Arni's does not deliver, unfortunately, and someone had a really bad idea to make the color scheme orange and brown, but the food is good and reasonably priced (nothing on the menu over eleven dollars), so I suggest you stop by and check it out.

Superbowl Sunday: Two Perspectives

He Said:

by Mark Polit

Aah, the Superbowl. The one time of the year when all men (notice I didn't use the word mankind) can sit back, relax, and enjoy the spirit of true competition. With a keg of beer in my room and food from the HUB, I tuned in to Superbowl XXXII with much anticipation.

As I had hoped all week, the Denver Broncos and quarterback (the person who throws the ball for all you women out there) John Elway were the victors in what was one of the most competitive Superbowls in the past decade.

I mean, don't get me wrong, women have their role in the Superbowl. They get to be the teeny-boppers who dance at halftime in their short skirts, or if you're at home, they fetch you beer and snacks.

Don't get mad at me. I mean, every time I go on a date, I end up at some Leonardo DiCaprio movie where all I hear is "Oh, he is

so hot." The kid is a 12 year-old string bean. But that's beside the point.

You ladies have your day, Valentine's Day, so you damn well better let us enjoy the Superbowl. Then there was the MTV Death Bowl, quite possibly one of the most entertaining half-time shows of all time.

I mean, what guy didn't enjoy the humor of watching Pamela Anderson's boobs fly into her arms as she kicked the snot out of RuPaul and Marv Albert moaned himself into a frenzy?

Overall, it was an enjoyable night and one that I look forward to experiencing again next year.

Reporter's note: The above article in no way reflects the true feelings of this writer regarding the role women play in our society. As the infamous Spice Girls would say, "Go Girl Power!"

She Said:

by Sara Kloczek

Well, the biggest day of the year has come and gone. The day when family and friends gather to laugh and talk and eat. The one day of the year that people joke would be the best day to attack the US because there would be no one paying attention. No, I am not talking about Christmas. I am talking about Super Bowl Sunday!

As a girl growing up, I often felt almost punished by this day. After all, there was never anything else on TV (at least not at my house), and it always meant cleaning up the house before and after football watching guests.

As the years went by, I started to understand what was going on during those four quarters and chose my own team to cheer for. Now I look forward to the day for the fun I know it will bring.

This year's game brought both joy and disappointment. I was able to spend the day

with my friends from Saint Joe and my friends from elsewhere, but alas, my team did not win! Everyone knows that the Green Bay Packers were supposed to win...were picked to win...did NOT win.

As the game progressed and I realized the probable outcome, I tried to take solace in the always exciting commercials that debut during the game. These commercials are really what everyone is waiting to see anyway!

This year I thought the commercials left a great deal to be desired. Instead of frogs, we got lizards. Instead of dancing bears, we got Pepsi-drinking geese. I feel sorry for all of the non-football fans that only enjoy the commercial breaks and the half-time show portions of the evening.

The one good thing about Sunday for me? I did not lose any money!! I can just sigh and say, "Hey, maybe next year!"

Continued from page 4
exist, because we create it.

Even on this campus, it is easy to see that we have problems being integrated. We may not do it consciously, but we still do it. Try to think about how many times you see people of different races joined together. I saw this at the march. We came together as a community and as a people united in love to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The last verse of "We Shall Overcome" starts with "God is on our side." As we began that song outside the courthouse, I noticed the sun was starting to peak out of the clouds. I nudged my friend and pointed it out. She smiled, and for a moment I was amazed. The sun gave me a sense of hope. Hope that King's dream will someday become a complete reality for all of us.

Ask Arnie

Dear Arnie,

My boyfriend wears this really disgusting cologne that I can't stand. His mom bought it for him, and he loves it. I've tried to hint that I don't like it, but he never picks up on my subtle clues (he is a guy, you know). I even bought him some new cologne for Christmas, but he still wears the old stuff.

Whenever we cuddle, or even when I'm standing too close to him, I almost feel sick because it stinks so bad. Other people don't seem to notice it, but I just hate it. I really don't want to hurt his feelings, but I hate cringing every time he gets close to me. What should I do?

--Plugging my nose

Dear Plugging,

If your boyfriend's cologne really bothers you that much, you need to talk to him about it. Maybe you could just ask him to wear the cologne that you bought him. Tell him that the fragrance you bought him drives you crazy. Chances are, he'll want to please you.

If he still fails to pick up on your hints, come right out and tell him that you don't like his cologne. Ask him to try the cologne you bought him, and if he doesn't like it, he can try something else. He may not quit wearing it altogether, but he will probably be willing to switch when he finds out that you don't like it.

--Arnie

Send letters to Ask Arnie at Post Office Box 2225 or put them in The Observer box in the Core building.

Camping for the Homeless Event Being Planned

by Natalie Berenda

In the next couple weeks students should be alert to the efforts of individuals raising awareness of the homeless. Signs will be posted on campus and individuals will accept donations outside of the cafeteria.

Following these efforts will be "Camping for the Homeless," an event established last year by Bill Bell and 1997 graduate Nick Anagnost. Bell and others will camp on the I.M. field all night in a cardboard box. They will be accepting donations of money and canned foods. This will take place in late February or early March.

Bell's idea came about last year, as he wanted to make people aware of the homeless problem in America and worldwide.

"I wanted to bring it to this school because homelessness is not a problem we see here everyday," he explained.

The event won much credibility last year as donations went to a women's shelter in Chicago and to the Habitat for Humanity program. "I would like to thank everyone for the tremendous support that we had last year," Bell said.

Bell would like to encourage everyone to come

out and see the event even if they cannot donate. The interest is appreciated.

"The ultimate goal would be to have every student at Saint Joseph's College camping out there. How viable of an option that is, I'm not sure, but that's the goal. That's the dream," Bell stated.

He believes that the event will have to establish more credibility first. He has a couple people in mind to carry on the event after he graduates.

"The goal will probably not happen in the near future but eventually I would like not only a campus event but a state event," Bell concluded.

Track Team is Ready for the Road Ahead

by Erin Breetzke

Leaping hurdles, passing the baton, and throwing various objects great distances are just a few of the skills athletes on the Saint Joseph's College track and field team perform with great ability.

Though it was not a scoring meet, Saturday January 17 the track and field team participated in the Purdue Invitational in West Lafayette. This meet was viewed as beneficial by both the coach and athletes.

"That's our first meet every year. The biggest thing we try to do at the Purdue Open is get the nervousness out," head track and field/cross country coach Bill Massoels stated. "We try to lay a foundation and we really want to see what our strengths are for everybody. I think what Purdue shows us is that we have a lot more

strengths than weaknesses," he added.

Senior hurdler Amber Dossett agrees that this first meet went well.

"Team-wise I think everything was where we expected it to be," she commented. "I believe we performed at a level where we should be at this time," she added.

With this first meet under the team's belt, confidence in freshman ability, team unity and leadership abound in the team's attitude, and many people look at this year's team in a positive light.

"I think the freshmen came in and adjusted well to the first meet, [and] I think they handled themselves quite well," coach Massoels commented.

Speaking of team unity, coach Massoels stated "I think you always want to see your team grow as a unit. I

see a lot of team unity, and I see that the kids really believe in themselves and each other."

Freshman thrower Kim Noon agrees the upperclassmen and captains are encouraging.

"The captains (Toby Cheatham and Bryan Hall) motivate us to do the best we can," she commented.

Senior thrower and team captain Bryan Hall sees motivation as an important aspect of team unity and success.

"The ability to motivate others comes through continually working hard in practice and performing well in a meet," he commented. "Also, the biggest motivation comes through words of encouragement like cheering teammates during practice or a meet," he added.

With the beginning of the

track and field season, many team members have goals they would like to achieve.

"An obvious one for me is nationals. I was close last year, but I want to get there this year," Junior runner Chris Crum stated.

Even those on the injured reserve list contribute to the team's goals and ultimate success when they are unable to physically participate.

"I'm there for moral support and to do anything I can do to help the team," Junior hurdler Dan Koleszar commented.

Throughout it all, this team has the determination and will to win. To reach their goals, they have had to adapt and overcome, and because of this, they are continuously successful.

"What's amazing is that we can maintain at least twentieth best in the nation

without the facilities," Crum commented. "With our minimal facilities, we're doing really well, [and] we adapt well," he added.

In addition to adapting, the team is willing to take on new competition. With the Eastbay Classic in Steven's Point, Wisconsin on February 7, the team is quite eager to compete in this new meet.

"I'm looking forward to Steven's Point for several reasons. There's going to be a lot of good competition there, and if you don't run with the best, then you never know how good you're going to be, or are," Sophomore relay/hurdler Zach Dock stated.

Coach Massoels has faith in the season that lies ahead.

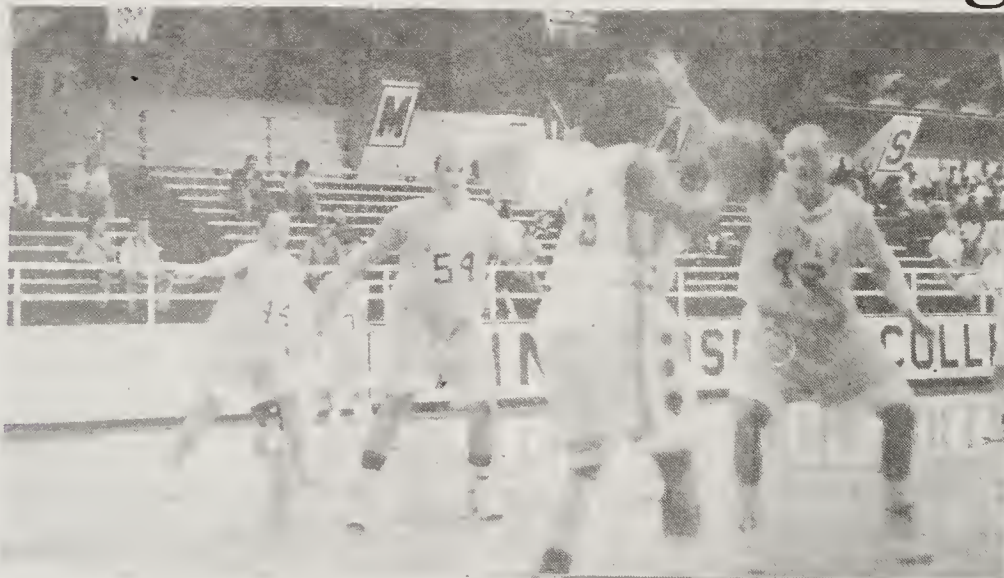
"I think that we're on track, or slightly ahead, of where we want to be. I think this team believes they can achieve their goals."

Ladies' Basketball Faces a Tough Season

by Jill Masters

The Saint Joseph's Lady Pumas are not as strong this year as people thought they might be. During pre-season, the Lady Pumas who are 3-6 in conference and 7-9 overall, were picked to take first or second place in the conference. They were battling out the middle position with University Missouri at Saint Louis until the Pumas defeated the Riverwomen of USML on Saturday, January 24. They won 93-69 to ensure their middle position in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The women are now 8-9 overall and 4-6 in the conference.

The Pumas who only lost one player last year, came back in full force and were ready to take it all. Only they are finding it harder than they had anticipated. The team has



Tamara Bumpers waits for the perfect time to pass the ball.

photo by Jen Palecek

not met its own expectations. They, along with the rest of the conference were expecting to become a force to reckon with.

All Conference player, Angie Hupfer feels that she is not playing like she did last year when she was picked as

a freshman for the All Conference Team. Fellow teammate, Tamara Bumpers feels the same way. She feels that she has lost some of the love for the game.

This is a very frustrating season for the Pumas. In the beginning of the season they

seemed to be a completely different team. The Pumas are not a weak team by any means. It is just the opposite. They are a very physical team who beat each other up during practice. Not one practice goes by that there are not at least three people with

numerous floor burns on their knees. They practice their hearts out and run until it hurts too bad to keep going, but somehow they seem to trudge on.

"We know that we have the talent to do better, but we really are not sure what it is that is stopping us from attaining the ultimate," Jill Stevens stated.

Coach Plett and Assistant Darren Haas have both tried to figure out just what is missing. There have been numerous meetings, talks with the team, and pondering moments where they have thought themselves to the point of headache. So far nothing has worked.

The Pumas are hoping to turn the team around little by little. It will be a long and hard process, but it will be accomplished!

Rory Johnson, back on the court

by Kevin Collins

If you follow Puma basketball at all, then I am sure that you have seen Rory Johnson. I am sure of this because Rory is a hard man to miss. His 6'6", 275 pound frame takes up a good deal of space in the post. Rory is from Aurora, IL. Although he is playing as a freshman, at age 25, Rory is one of the oldest Pumas on the team. He is carrying a double major in Finance and Marketing.

Rory comes from a rather large family. He has two younger brothers and six younger sisters. They are all scattered across the United States, either still in high school, or in other universities.

Rory thinks it is funny that he will be one of the last to graduate from his family.

"It's kind of funny that I have a younger brother and sister who will both graduate before I do" Rory said.

Rory first went to school at the University of Louisville in Kentucky on a football scholarship. After only one year

at Louisville, Rory decided to try his luck in the work-world.

He dropped out of school and went to work for Crown, a company that produces colors for Coke cans and other canned products. He also took on the entrepreneurial venture of starting his own Disc Jockey business. He said that this venture into the world of music originated as a very small-time project. He and a friend would play at all of the parties that their friends were putting on, for a small fee. They worked all over and even got into working at some clubs.

Despite having a good time and making a little money, Rory decided that his love for the game of basketball and his desire to obtain an education were reason enough to go back to school.

Tyrone Parks, a guard for the Pumas, was instrumental in helping to bring Rory to Saint Joseph's. Parks and Johnson had become friends

in recent years and along with Mike Hicks like to refer to themselves as the Illinois Connection. Head Coach Bill Bland went to watch Johnson play and he recruited Rory to be a Puma.

Rory felt that it was a tough adjustment going back to school after five years.

"After I had been away from school for five years, it was a little hard to come back, but life has been good here at Saint Joseph's. The student body has been great and I have made a lot of friends," Rory stated.

Rory is doing well in the classroom and is working hard on the basketball court.

After college, Rory is probably going to go back to work with Crown and aspires to someday have his own club in the Chicago area. He realizes that this will be a challenge, as the club entertainment industry is an extremely competitive one, but he also is confident that he is up to the task.

ON THE BALL

The men's and women's basketball teams will face the University of Wisconsin Parkside on Saturday January 31st. The women will play at 1:00p.m. and the men will play at 3:00p.m.

I.M.s ATTACK

Intramural basketball is back in action. The league is being run by Senior Chad Novak. The games are played Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at 7, 8, and 9.

There are a total of 17 teams.

Chad Novak feels that choosing favorites is too soon to do now.

"Picking a favorite is hard to do. The coaches have solidified their team with newcomer Coach Foster. It should be a great season, we'll see how it goes" Chad stated.

Men's Basketball Team on the Rebound

by Eric Schneider

This years men's basketball team is not off to the start they wished for, but things are turning around. They are 8-9 overall and 2-7 in the GLVC conference.

Last Thursday night, the Pumas ended a three game losing streak as Chad Patterson hit a tip in with no time left in regulation to give the Pumas a 85-84 victory over Quincy. Patterson finished the night with a game high, 21 points. Off the bench, Greg Taylor scored a season high 12 points, while Mike Hicks chipped in 11 and Tyrone Parks added 10.

Mick Mancuso commented that the game was very physical.

"The game was fast

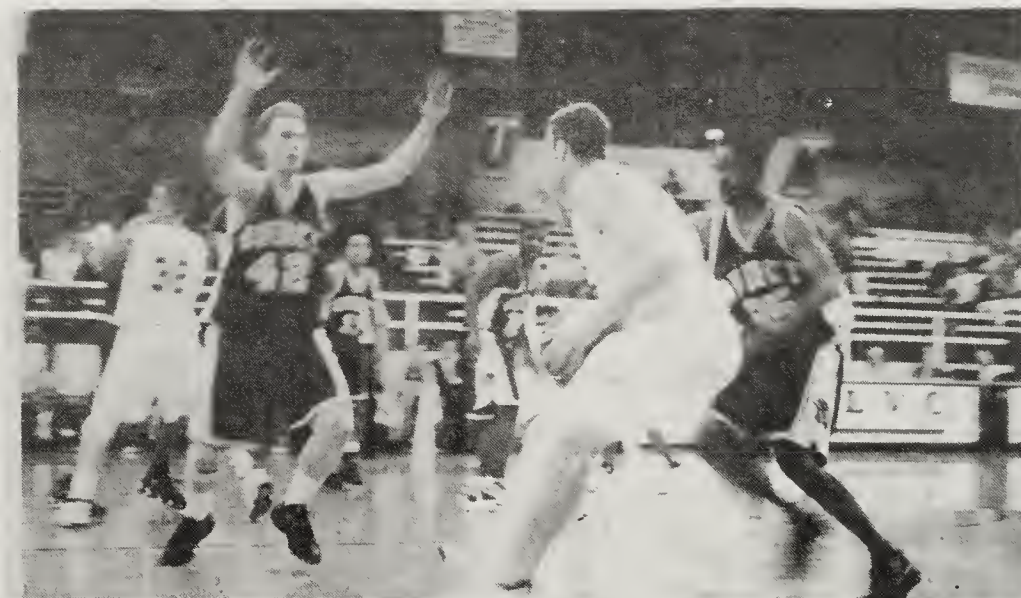


photo by Jen Palecek

Andy Anasinski, working hard on offense, searches for an open teammate.

paced and sometimes got out of control due to some poor officiating." Indeed the game was intense, with five intentional fouls called

in the last few minutes of the game.

Team members hope that the last second victory will pivot their season in the right

direction. Although the early season has been rough on the Puma ballers, success is in the near future.

"This season has been a

feeling out process," stated Patterson during a post-game interview. "We have a lot of young players working their way into more playing time."

Sophomore forward Jason Hallenbeck feels the same. "A lot of the players haven't been in game time situations, but everyone is working hard to gel."

Patterson added, "We have guys stepping up and taking the ball to the hoop. Matt Metzger has seen more playing time lately and so has Greg Taylor. Both of those guys are really working hard at practice and in the games."

The men's basketball team is ready to step up to the challenge. The fan and community support is there, and hopefully the Pumas can use this spark to light the rest of their way.

hAPPY hUNTING

by
Don Shanahan

Welcome again movie fans for another *Observer* movie review. 1998 is here and there is something for everybody this season, especially an incredible tear-jerking three hour movie with a big sinking boat and powerful romance, but that's another review. This issue I want to take a look at the "other" movie all of Hollywood is talking about. That flick is *GOOD WILL HUNTING*.

This extraordinary movie follows the story of a troubled yet brilliant young man named Will Hunting, played by up-and-coming actor Matt Damon of *COURAGE UNDER FIRE* and *THE RAINMAKER*. He, his best friend Chuckie (Ben Affleck of *CHASING AMY*), and fellow buddies of South Boston try to have fun and make an honest living. Will is a unique combination of arrogance and incredible genius. While working as a janitor at MIT, he secretly solves near impossible math problems that professors have for their students to solve on a hallway blackboard. In doing so he turns the heads of math professor Dr. Lambeau (Stellan Skarsgard) who finds out the identity of the mystery genius. Will's cockiness gets the best of him many times as he has a history of run-ins with the law. Lambeau bales him out of his most recent arrest on two conditions: First, Will must help the professor solve more math problems; Secondly, he must see a psychiatrist.

The math part goes well, but Will runs off every therapist they throw at him. Finally, the math teacher turns to an old college friend and psychiatrist Sean Maguire, played magnificently by Robin Williams. After a bumpy start, Will opens up to Sean and Will's true self slowly comes out. On top of that, Will meets a nice Harvard girl named Skyler (Minnie Driver of *GROSSE POINTE BLANK* and *HARD RAIN*) who cares about him. Pressure mounts though, as Lambeau thrusts government think-tank job offers at Will trying to make him something he is not. In the end, Will has to choose between the golden lottery ticket he's sitting on and the right thing to do. Are they both the same thing or something different?

This movie is the dream project of lifelong friends Damon and Affleck. They co-wrote this screenplay back when they were studying film at Harvard. They worked on it and pitched it to Hollywood moviemakers for five years. In a huge twist of fate, it was picked up by Miramax and attracted the big name of Robin Williams, who signed on for a rare dramatic performance from the comic. Just recently, the same screenplay has won them a Golden Globe for "Best Screenplay." The film has become a great success at the box office despite huge competition and has picked up big-time Oscar buzz. The movie itself, the screenplay, Damon as lead actor, Williams as supporting actor, Driver as supporting actress, and director, Gus Van Sant, are all considered serious Oscar contenders.

I can't say enough good things about *GOOD WILL HUNTING*. It's a great story of the most important of life's choices in front of a reluctant young man. Matt Damon, like his lead character in *THE RAINMAKER*, is incredible in the title role of Will Hunting. He shows the range and ability that even few veteran actors have. Robin Williams, though restrained from stealing the show, is caring, dramatic, and still comical as Sean Maguire. It's almost a shame that Williams doesn't do more roles like this. Ben Affleck's macho buddy, Chuckie, and Minnie Driver's luminous Skyler are great compliments to Damon's lead.

Combine all this with the more-Irish-than-Ireland South Boston locale and you have a great "feel good" kind of movie. I highly recommend *GOOD WILL HUNTING* to all of you, student and faculty. It's a perfect date movie that guys and gals can both enjoy. The movie is ideal for us college students, during this same pivotal part of our lives. Also, this movie may serve as a reminder to older audiences, so they can really appreciate what young people like us go through. This is a treat, people, and by far one of the best of the year.



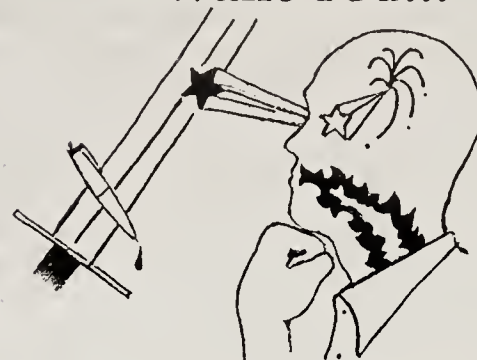
Merrillville

Southlake Mall: Phantoms; Fallen; Half Baked; Wag the Dog; Titanic (3 screens); As Good As It Gets; Scream 2; American Werewolf in Paris (219-738-2652)

Loews Theatre: The Full Monty; Hard Rain; Star Kid; Mousehunt; *Good Will Hunting*; The Boxer; Jackie Brown; Tomorrow Never Dies; Amistad; Home Alone 3; *Spice World* (219-947-4072)

Monon: Call for listing... it changes every Thursday (219-253-7030)
(Call For Times)

We Want You!!!



Hey Pumas. We, here, at the *Observer* want to see what you've got to say... We want to welcome your poems, your short stories, your drawings, and/or any of your other creative work to "this here Back Page." If you have any creative work that you'd like to see us print on this page, please let us know. You can contact me, Bob Dusek, at ext. 5488 or via email if interested.

Poetry

Silver Lining

The sky is the limit, so I've been told.
But I'd never be so bold.
Hold me back,
Don't let me go.
It's better that I don't know.

Charles Martin

EXONERATED

"The smell of the wild"
has seen some time today

Taken for granted, when your hands were busy
Taking in gifts (from your fresh victory)

"The smell of the wild," at the hands of defeat
tells you its purpose
and reveals your identity

Freed, exonerated, opened
wanting, needing and distinguishing the two
controlled, sometimes by a nearby force
within arms length if you'd only try

and, finally finding the answer
when you cleared the area in your attempts.

carry on.

Bob Dusek